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No. 52

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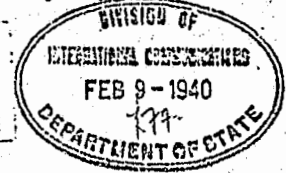
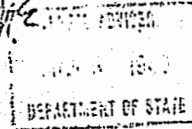
AMERICAN CONSULATE

Antofagasta, Chile, January 26, 1940

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1940 FEB 9 AM 11 13

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS



SUBJECT: Erben, Dr. Herman Frederick



THE HONORABLE  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's mimeographed instruction of September 2, 1938, (File No. 130-Erben, Hermann Frederick) entitled PASSPORT FACILITIES FOR DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN, and to report to the Department that Dr. Erben called at this Consulate today to seek its assistance toward getting signed on an American ship to return to the United States. He offered as evidence of his American citizenship American passport No. 272 (E242708) issued to him by the American Consulate General at Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 1, 1939, valid only for return to the United States before March 1, 1940.

The above information is transmitted to the Department with the thought that it might be interested in knowing about Dr. Erben's movements. He is traveling as a passenger from Valparaiso to Callao on the Japanese MS HEIYO MARU, and he has given this Consulate

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130-ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN

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certain information about the repatriation of 23 or 24 German seamen on this vessel which will be made the subject of a separate communication.

Dr. Erben desires to leave the vessel upon which he is traveling as a passenger and sign on an American ship because such a great deal of publicity has been given to the repatriation of the German seamen that he fears the vessel will be stopped by a British man-of-war and the German seamen taken prisoners. Since Dr. Erben is of German race and language, having been born in Vienna, he fears that British naval authorities might not honor his American passport and make of him a prisoner of war.

Since it was known to the undersigned that the British Consul here was preparing intelligence of the passage through here of the German seamen in question to be transmitted to British naval authorities, it was thoughtwise to tell him that Dr. Erben is a citizen of the United States of America and, according to his own statement, was not a member of the crew of the vessel from which the German seamen were being repatriated. The British Consul said that he appreciated the information and found it rather amusing because Dr. Erben is on the British list of suspected German agents, and would most certainly be taken prisoner if found on a neutral ship, or anywhere else by British authorities, naval or others.

Respectfully yours,

*George H. Adams*  
George H. Adams  
American Vice Consul

130/310 (Transmitted in triplicate)  
GHL:tc (Copies to: American Embassy, Santiago, Chile  
Consulate General " "  
American Consulate, Valparaiso "  
Consulate General, Buenos Aires,  
Argentina)